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Director

**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

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December 28, 2004

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

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From: David Sanders, Ph.D.
Director

**90 DAY REPORT ON RESPONSES TO THE RESIDENTIAL ACADEMY PROVIDERS
REQUEST FOR INTEREST/INFORMATION (RFI) FOR SEPTEMBER 28, 2004
MOTION.**

As you know, DCFS issued a Residential Academy Providers RFI in early December 2004 to ascertain the level of interest by individuals or organizations to provide Residential Academy settings for Los Angeles County Foster Youth. Of the twenty-seven (27) responses received, twenty-four (24) were from group homes, one (1) from a foster family agency, one (1) from a job readiness consortium and one (1) from a foundation that studies private-public partnerships in the education field.

These 27 responses span a wide range of residential academy models including many variations of residential care settings utilizing public and charter schools as well as a few proposals for 'from the ground up' projects. To assess the viability of these residential academy models, I will convene a taskforce, not limited to but including representation from each Board of Supervisors' Office, the CAO, Auditor Controller, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and DCFS managers from the Group Homes/FFA and Education Initiative Programs. We will report back to you within 90 days on our progress.

For any questions, please call me at (213) 351-5600 or your staff may call Helen Berberian, Board Liaison, at (213) 351-5530.

DS:WC
Attachments

C: Board Executive Office
Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Residential Academy Providers RFI
List of Residential Academy Providers RFI Respondents

RESIDENTIAL ACADEMY PROVIDERS RFI RESPONDENTS, 12/28/2004

1. 7Beginnings Learning Center
2. Children's Homes of Southern California
3. Crystal Wings, Inc.
4. Door of Hope Community Youth Center
5. Eddie Rochester Anderson Foundation
6. Environment Consortium
7. Excel Family
8. Glenway Corporation
9. Hart Community Homes
10. Hill Family Care
11. Landmark Foundation
12. Los Angeles Youth Network
13. Los Angeles Appleseed Foundation
14. Murrell's Community Service Agency
15. New Outlook Boys Home
16. Olive Crest
17. Penny Lane
18. Principals of YOUTH and Family Welfare Organization
19. Promise Group
20. Ruffin Consultation Group
21. Secure Transitions
22. See Foundation
23. Street Academy
24. Sycamores
25. United Care
26. Vista Del Mar
27. Young Ministries

Residential Academy Providers

Request for Interest/Information (RFI)

The County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is conducting a Request for Interest/Information to determine the interest and availability of individuals or organizations to provide a Residential Academy for foster youth under the jurisdiction of DCFS. Additionally, the DCFS is open to residential and academic organizations working in a collaborative effort to provide this service.

DCFS is a public agency charged with the responsibility of ensuring child safety that sometimes necessitates an out-of-home-care child placement. Though family reunification is always a primary objective, this is not always an alternative that can ensure child safety and well-being. DCFS is seeking program models for alternative residential placement of high school age youth in out-of-home-care placements for whom permanent placement in a family setting is unavailable, focused on academic and education goals leading to successful emancipation to adulthood. DCFS Children's Social Workers (CSWs) would refer to these Residential Academy Provider(s) high school age foster youth whose placement characteristics and academic achievements indicate they would benefit in a more challenging setting provided through that Residential Academy program.

Any individuals or organizations who do not have the background described above, but who nevertheless believe that they are capable of fulfilling one or more of the outcomes listed below may submit a letter of interest; however, they must also explain and document why they believe they have the background and experience to that set forth above. Submission of supporting documentation is encouraged and it may be attached to your letter of interest. Recipients of this RFI are also urged to share it with any and all other individuals or organizations whom you believe may be interested in providing a response.

The placement characteristics of the foster youth to participate in this program may include but are not limited to:

- Youth who have been in out of home care for at least 24 months and have experienced four (4) or more placements.
- Youth who are not placed with relatives.
- Youth who are 14 years of age and older.
- Youth with a long term foster care order from dependency court.
- Youth who are not freed for adoption.

The outcomes for youths from a Residential Academy should include but are not limited to:

- A stable and permanent home until emancipation to adulthood.
- High School graduation.
- Equip all emancipating youths for one or more of the following:
 - Entrance to a Community College, public or private College/University.
 - Vocational skills program leading to job placement.
 - Full-time employment.
- Establishment of a relationship with a mentor and/or a lifelong connection to a committed, caring adult.
- Completion of Independent Living Skills (ILP) program. (Please refer to the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act)

Interested parties should provide DCFS with a letter of interest/information of no more than 10 pages describing the following:

- How your program or proposed program will meet each of the desired outcomes listed above, including collaborations.
- Proposed facility type, location and student capacity for a residential academy.
- Proposed funding and funding source for your program model and facility other than Aid to Family with Dependent Children-Foster Care.
- Experience in the development and/or operation of an academic and/or residential facility.
- Experience in working with foster youth providing residential placement, treatment services, mentorship program services, employment skill training services and/or ILP services; include academic accreditations, residential licensure/rate qualifications and teaching/staffing/administrative management expertise.
- Other pertinent information describing your Residential Academy program model.

This RFI is issued solely to gather information and assist the DCFS in its internal evaluation and planning efforts. While the DCFS may choose to procure the services of a Residential Academy Provider, nothing in this RFI shall be construed as in any way obligating the County of Los Angeles to issue a formal advertisement, negotiate a contract, hire additional employees or in any way obtain the services of a Residential

Academy Provider. All information received in response to this RFI shall become the exclusive property of the County of Los Angeles. Respondents are cautioned that all documents received in response to this RFI become a matter of public record and shall be disclosed to the extent required by law, including but not limited to, the California Public Records Act (California Government Code Section 6250, et seq.). Respondents are advised to clearly, unambiguously and specifically identify all aspects of their response to the RFI, which are secret, confidential or proprietary. At a minimum, this shall include labeling the confidential material with the appropriate label: "trade secret," "confidential," "proprietary," etc. The County shall not in any way be liable or responsible for the disclosure of any such records or portion thereof, including, without limitation, those so marked, if the disclosure is required by law, or by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction. Nor shall the County in any way be liable or responsible for the disclosure of any such record or portion thereof, which has not been clearly, unambiguously and specifically identified in the aforementioned manner.

Respondents who provide a timely response to this RFI and who provide an address at which they may be reached, will be placed on a list of interested individuals or organizations. Should the DCFS choose to issue a formal advertisement for Residential Academy Providers within the calendar year 2005, those on the list of interested individuals or organizations shall be notified of the intent to issue the formal advertisement and where they may look to obtain additional information.

Letters of interest, not to exceed 10 pages may be submitted to: County of Los Angeles, Department of Children and Family Services, Contracts Administration, Room 400, 425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, CA 90020, Attention: Walter Chan, on or before 12:00 p.m., Monday, December 20, 2004. You may also contact Ron Rios, Assistant Manager at (213) 351-5676 or Esther Pulido, Contract Analyst at (213) 351-5708